

# Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and notes on  
Newfoundland and Labrador's  
Intangible Cultural  
Heritage Program

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[ich@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:ich@heritagefoundation.ca)



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## Baccalieu Trail Public Folklore Project

The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) office of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is starting an ICH project-based training program along the Baccalieu Trail.

The program is intended to help local heritage organizations work from start to finish, as they develop and produce an ICH documentation project.

The project will be run by provincial folklorist Dale Jarvis, in cooperation with heritage and municipal organizations along the Baccalieu Trail.

"We will be hosting a first meeting in Cupids to present on the overall project," says Jarvis. "We will be talking about different aspects of local culture, and trying to get a sense of what communities are most worried about losing."

The project will serve as a best-practice example for future organizations or communities who wish to implement their own oral history, folklore, folklife festivals, and other ICH projects.

The process will be documented by the HFNL staff, and made accessible to other groups digitally as a guide for future projects.

A Baccalieu Trail community meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17th, 2010 at 7:30p.m. Jarvis will present on the overall program, and will be working with participants to select possible themes or topics for a future workshop series.

### For more info, or to RSVP contact:

Melissa Squarey, ICH Programs Assistant

1-888-739-1892 ext 2

[ichprograms@gmail.com](mailto:ichprograms@gmail.com)

*Local musicians outside the Cupids Legacy Centre, July 2010. Photo credit: Chris Hibbs*

## Introducing the new ICH Programs Assistant

*By Melissa Squarey*

I was hired in September as the ICH Program Assistant. I thought it might be nice to introduce myself through exploring my first few experiences here at the ICH office. As you probably know, ICH was busy in September with the implementation of Doors Open 2010. This means that I was quite busy interacting with all of our lovely participants of Doors Open. Everything was going great and then Igor took the helm guiding Newfoundland and Labrador through a rough storm.

In my own home, I lost power for several days, which left me stranded with no hot water and no hot food. Fortunately, things were not as bad at the workplace, the ICH office had electricity and all of the Doors Open Coordinating could continue to take place. The unfortunate damages to St. John's and other areas on the Eastern end of this province were a horrible sight to many residents so; I was determined to remain prudent on getting Doors Open running properly. All events went as scheduled without failure.

Since then, I have been quite busy planning November's Festival On Fire, which is the 2nd annual folklife festival for the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. The festival went over well with the entire province with over 40

participating municipalities on the Island and in Labrador. One of the most enjoyable events was the Fire, Culture, and Festival public talk that we had on November 4th, 2010. I took in so much information about not only Guy Fawkes Night in Newfoundland but also the celebrations in Iran and India.

As we are clewing up our Festival On Fire, we now have a growing Digital Collection of Bonfire Memories on Memorial's Digital Archives Initiative (<http://collections.mun.ca>). My own memories of bonfire night are not as extravagant as the other memories I have heard in the past couple of weeks. In fact, Bonfire Night in Channel-Port aux Basques was quite a social communitarian thing in my neighbourhood. I remember all of the members of my neighbourhood coming to the fire with their old junk that needed to be burned. Meanwhile, us

kids would sit on the embankment above the fire (which was in the cove) and watch the flames. At some point, someone would bring some kind of food to eat. I remember being allowed to stay up until 11p.m. at night, which was a very big deal for a child.

I am already beginning to move on to the next ICH project: The Baccalieu Trail Public Folklore Project, which will highlight a best practices model for project-based training across the province.

You may be already asking what I was doing before my employment at ICH office. Well I am just finishing my M.A. in Sociology where I studied Rural Youth Employment Experiences. Before that I lived in Corner Brook for four years where I completed my B.A. in Psychology/Social Cultural Studies.

There I studied a great amount of social psychology and gender issues related to children. I was born in Channel-Port aux Basques on the Southwest Coast of the province and as such my research in an academic sense has been impacted by what I grew up taking for granted.



*Photo courtesy Dale Jarvis. A typical day in the life of the ICH Programs Assistant.*

## Mummers Festival Returns for 2010

The Mummers Festival organizing committee is pleased to announce the return of our incredibly popular Mummers Festival for the 2010 Christmas season, including the 2nd Annual St. John's Mummers Parade, to be held in partnership with The Rooms on Saturday, December 18th

There are many ways community members can get involved.

We are especially interested in filling volunteer roles and there are many ways to get involved. Even the smallest efforts have big effect and we hope volunteers will find their time with us very rewarding.

Some volunteer activities include: materials collection for workshops, poster, and fundraising. Anyone interested in getting involved with the Festival should contact a Festival organizer. If you are planning a mummer-related event, we'd like to know.

The Mummers Parade is our crowning event and it's the people who make it so memorable. We saw over 300 energetic mummers and 200 spectators last year. Our free workshops generated close to 30 hobby horses, adding much colour to the parade.

We owe a lot to the participants whose creative and expressive presence made the Festival such a success. We hope to generate even more interest this year and will need you, the public, to lend a hand.

The Department of Folklore Lunchtime Seminar Series will include a special presentation on mummering this December as well. On Tuesday 7th December, Dr. Paul Smith will present "A Mesmerising Miscellany of Marvellous and Majestic Mummers: The Commodification of a Newfoundland Christmas Tradition."

The talk will take place from 12.30-1.30pm in Room ED-4036, Education Building, MUN. In combination with this presentation, organizers will be hosting a potluck party lunch to celebrate the end of the semester and the approaching festive season. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share. Contributions can be brought to room ED-4051 from 12.00 noon onwards to allow people time to fill up their plates before Dr. Smith's presentation at 12.30pm.

Colleagues and friends from Memorial University and beyond are welcome to attend. For more information, visit

<http://www.mun.ca/folklore/about/news.php>

**For more information about the Mummers Festival, or to volunteer, contact Ryan Davis, Mummers Festival Coordinator.**

Phone: (w) 739-7870 (c) 697-8722

[info@mummersfestival.ca](mailto:info@mummersfestival.ca)

[www.mummersfestival.ca](http://www.mummersfestival.ca)



*Photos by Mark Bennett, Mummers Parade 2009.*





## John Guy's March Into Cupids

by Noreen MacIennan

Near St. John's, in a sheltered bay, is the community of Cupids, first settled in 1610 by John Guy and a group of colonists from England. In this year, 2010, the 400th Anniversary of the colony, Cupids has hosted a year long celebration with many events scheduled in the summer months. The St. John's English Country Dance Society was pleased to be included in the festivities. On August 20th, in an outdoor setting, an orchestra of twenty four musicians, the Tenacious String Orchestra (TSO), conducted by Alison Black, played for dancing. We performed three sets of English Country Dances, each set having three dances. These were interspersed by and explanatory, historical script written and narrated by Martin Mulligan. Musical direction was given to the orchestra by Bruce Shawyer who with four other musicians provides music for our weekly classes in St. John's.

At the end of our performance, a special presentation was made by Bruce Shawyer to "John Guy" played by local resident, suitably attired in historical costume. Bruce had composed a tune "John Guy's March into Cupids" and asked me to devise a dance. I decided on a simple circle dance, with basic figures suitable for audience participation. We then invited the audience to join in the first public performance of the dance. We had a response of over fifty people who, along with John Guy, danced "John Guy's March Into Cupids". With the enthusiastic response of the spectators, we continued with a few more dances.

*Couples form a circle facing counter-clockwise, woman on man's right, with nearer hands joined.*

- A 1-3 March forward 6 steps.
- 4 Turn as a couple, woman forward, man backward, to face clockwise.
- 5-7 March forward 6 steps.
- 8 Face center to form a circle, all join hands.
- B 9-12 Forward a double towards the center, fall back a double.
- 13-16 Repeat bars 9-12, finish facing partner.
- C 17-20 Arm right with Partner.
- 21-24 Arm left with Partner.
- D 25-28 Partners facing, join right hands, balance forward and back, right shoulder to right shoulder. Repeat.
- 29-30 Drop hands, passing right shoulders, move forward to meet new partner.
- 31-32 Joining two hands, turn once round, opening out to face counter clockwise around the circle, ready to repeat the dance.

